

Wisconsin Legislative Council Symposia Series on Early Access to Autism Treatment

Week 4: Policies Affecting Payment for Autism-Related Services

September 29, 2020

Speaker Biographies

Scott Allen, Self-Advocate on the Autism Spectrum.

Scott Allen, a self-advocate on the autism spectrum, has been actively engaged in autism advocacy since 2002, particularly through public speaking. He was a board member of the Autism Society of Wisconsin (now the Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin) from 2005-2009, and is currently a board member of the Autism Society of South-Central Wisconsin, where he has served since 2018. Scott has a Master's in counseling from UW-Whitewater, which he has used as a cofacilitator in research programs on autism through the Waisman Center in Madison, as well as in his current roles as a counselor at Westside Psychotherapy and as a cofacilitator of the AS WE ARE autism student-empowerment group through UW-Madison. Scott is also co-founder of the INTEGRAL Adult Autism Conference, which launched in 2019.

Deb Rathermel, Director, Bureau of Children's Services, Department of Health Services.

Deb Rathermel is the Director of the Bureau of Children's Services (BCS), at the Department of Health Services Division of Medicaid Services. This Bureau administers statewide programs that support children with special needs and implements statewide policy for children with developmental disabilities, physical disabilities and developmental delays.

BCS is responsible for administration of Katie Beckett, Birth to Three, Children's Long Term Support Waiver, and Children's Community Options Programs, Children Come First, Wrap Around Milwaukee, Care4Kids, and the Complex Medical Care Programs. BCS works with, and through Wisconsin counties, managed care and health homes, service providers, volunteer and advocacy associations, and families with children to bring quality programs and supports to Wisconsinites.

Deb has over 25 years of experience in state service, county and community program administration and is also mom to five sons, the youngest of which is an adult with autism.

Pam Lano, Section Manager for Behavioral Health Policy, Bureau of Benefits Policy, Division of Medicaid Services, Department of Health Services.

Pam Lano is the Section Manager for Behavioral Health Policy in the Bureau of Benefits Policy in the Division of Medicaid Services at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. She holds a doctorate in developmental psychology from UW-Madison. She has more than 20 years of experience as an autism treatment provider, supervising developmentally-oriented behavioral interventions and providing training about autism for staff, families, and community groups. Dr. Lano served on the Governor's Council on Autism for 15 years, and assisted DHS with the design and implementation of the current

Medicaid behavioral treatment benefit. She is also mom to two sons, the older of whom is an adult with autism, and the younger of whom was recently certified as a behavior analyst.

Julie Walsh, Senior Attorney, State of Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance.

Julie Walsh is the senior attorney with the Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and has served as an attorney with the Office since 1998. Ms. Walsh works with primary expertise in state and federal health insurance matters, preparing technical legislation and administrative rules, and representing the Office in administrative enforcement proceedings. Related to this symposia, Ms. Walsh drafted the current administrative rule implementing the statutory Autism mandate. In addition to her work for the Office, Ms. Walsh serves as the Governor's appointed Chair of the Interagency Coordinating Council for Birth to Three and immediately prior to her current appointment, served as a member of the Council since 2005 as the Commissioner's appointee. She received her undergraduate degree in Psychology and graduate degrees in Health Services Administration and Public Policy and Administration from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Following graduate school, Ms. Walsh worked in hospital administration at a primary-care hospital for five years prior to entering and earning her law degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School.